

CULTURE AND RECREATION

I. OVERVIEW

This Program Memorandum covers Culture and Recreation, the eighth of the eleven major programs in the statewide program structure. The overall objective of the Culture and Recreation program is to enrich the lives of people of all ages by providing and preserving opportunities and facilities for cultural and recreational activities. Cultural activities in this program encompass both Hawaii's exceptionally rich natural history and its human cultural heritage.

This major program has two principal sub-programs: Cultural Activities and Recreational Activities. A total of eight individual, lowest-level programs and their associated plans are included in the Multi-Year Program and Financial Plan for the period 2007-2013.

State organizational entities involved in the Culture and Recreation program include the Department of Land and Natural Resources, University of Hawaii, and Department of Accounting and General Services. Other non-state agencies significantly involved with this program include the Federal National Parks Service, Army Corps of Engineers, National Endowments for the Humanities and the Arts, and each county's Parks and Recreation departments.

Major activities of this program include: identification, research, protection, and preservation of natural, historical, and archaeological sites; conservation of historic records and artifacts; collection and conservation of oral histories; construction and operation of recreational facilities, such as parks and small boat harbors.

Public participation in the services provided by the program is expected to increase during the planning period. Factors influencing this demand would be general population increases, a greater desire for cultural activities resulting from prior exposure to and experience with the arts, and a greater desire for more diversified choices in recreational activities. For most of the recreational activities conducted by the program, participation will not be influenced greatly by economic status since low or no user fees are charged with exception of small boats, stadium activities, and park cabin rentals.

Eight-year costs of the recommended program are shown in Table I. It is noted that no capital investment costs are reflected for the planning period because projects are under review.

TABLE I

INVESTMENT AND OPERATING COSTS

CULTURE AND RECREATION

	Fiscal Years							
	Actual	Est.	Rec.	Rec.	Projected			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
<u>Costs of the Recommended Program^{A/}</u>								
Capital Investment	33.12	52.63	59.17	66.47	...	...	...	...
Operating	37.22	50.15	55.26	54.57	54.57	54.57	54.57	54.57
Total	70.34	102.78	114.43	121.04	54.57	54.57	54.57	54.57

^{A/} Expenditures in millions of dollars from all funds.

A further discussion of the two Level II programs comprising the overall Culture and Recreation program will be found in the following sections.

II. COSTS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RECOMMENDED PROGRAMS

This section discusses activities, costs, and effectiveness of the major Level II programs included in the Culture and Recreation program.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The objective of this Level II program is to enrich the lives of people of all ages by displaying and making available for appreciation and study significant elements of our cultural heritage such as plant and animal life, unique natural features, places and objects of historical and scientific interest, literature and works of art, and by presenting cultural and artistic events.

There are a total of four individual, lowest-level programs under Cultural Activities. State agencies involved in this sub-program are: University of Hawaii (Waikiki Aquarium), Department of Accounting and General Services (State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission) and Department of Land and Natural Resources (Historic Preservation Division).

The major activities of this program include: practice, perfection, and presentation of ethnic arts; cultural and artistic participation of and presentations for people in rural and remote areas, institutions and low income areas; enrichment of environment through improved design and works of art in public places; arts experiences in the schools; support to improve activities and events in dance, literature, music, public media, theater and visual arts; statewide touring of resident and visiting artists and art events; preservation of the ethnic and cultural history of Hawaii; and identification, protection, management and preservation of historic properties, including burial sites. Also included are activities such as establishing and maintaining aquaria, and places and areas where other unique natural features of Hawaii may be preserved and displayed for scenic, scientific and educational appreciation. Examples of these are the display of Hawaiian aquatic life at the Waikiki Aquarium, and presentations of music, drama, dance and visual arts.

Cost data is shown in Table II-1.

TABLE II-1
INVESTMENT AND OPERATING COSTS
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

		F i s c a l Y e a r s						
		Actual	Est.	Rec.	Rec.	P r o j e c t e d		
		<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>2010-11</u>	<u>2011-12</u> <u>2012-13</u>
<u>Costs of the Recommended Program^{A/}</u>								
	Capital Investment	.75	3.59	...	...	...	...	...
	Operating	10.74	14.51	14.58	14.58	14.58	14.58	14.58
	Total	11.49	18.10	14.58	14.58	14.58	14.58	14.58

^{A/} Expenditures in millions of dollars from all funds.

State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) promotes, perpetuates, preserves, and encourages culture and the arts, history and the humanities as central to the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i. As the official state arts agency for Hawai'i, the SFCA provides financial support for a wide range of public exhibitions, concerts, theatrical performances, workshops, artist residencies, publications, broadcast programs, conferences, artist fellowships, apprenticeships in the traditional arts, and various types of classes. The SFCA also implements initiatives in concert with community organizations and maintains close partnerships with a variety of constituents.

The SFCA Biennium Grants program is supported with funds from the State of Hawai'i, and the National Endowment for the Arts, and significant funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant from the Department of Human Services. The agency's Biennium Grants program assists organizations statewide in the areas of Arts Education, Community Arts, Heritage and Preservation and Presentation. During FY 06, the SFCA awarded approximately \$1.7 million to 115 organizations in Hawai'i. The total audience reached through events and projects receiving SFCA support is expected to be one million people. These grants are important to perpetuating the aesthetic well being of Hawaii's population, targeting specific audiences such as at-risk youth and needy families, and enriching the experience of those visiting the state.

The SFCA's Art in Public Places (APP) Program contributes to the professional development of artists through its purchase and commissioning of original works of art. The APP Program is responsible for the beautification of the built environment on State property through developing the state art collection. Funded by the Works of Art Special Fund, Section 103-8.5 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, the collection contains approximately 400 permanently installed commissioned works of art and more than 5,000 relocatable works of art. Included in the APP Program are positions that curate and manage the collection, two commissioned works of art project managers, a registrar, four exhibit specialists, and a conservation coordinator to attend to demands for restoration and repair. A complex conservation and maintenance program for all artwork is part of the collection's policies. A long-term maintenance program is financially prudent in comparison to incurring costs resulting from deterioration and restoration.

In November 2002, the SFCA opened the Hawai'i State Art Museum (HiSAM), a 12,000 square foot art gallery, at the No. 1 Capitol District building. The museum was identified as a much needed venue to allow people to view the State's art collection according to both the 1995 Statewide Public Art Master Plan and

a 1999 Legislative Audit. The museum promotes public access to the State's art collection. *Enriched by Diversity: The Art of Hawai'i* was the museum's inaugural exhibition, featuring 360 works of art by 284 artists. Five new exhibitions have since been mounted. School tours, training for teachers and cultural tourism initiatives are also developed as integral to the museum's programming. During this fiscal year, a gift shop, café, and visitor center will open to the public. Currently, three staff implement museum activities. Legislation establishing a nonprofit entity, the Friends of the Hawai'i State Art Museum, was passed in May 2004.

One of the SFCA's efforts in Arts Education is administering implementation of *Arts First*, a strategic plan to integrate the arts into the public school curriculum. This work includes partnerships with numerous educational organizations throughout the State. The Arts Education program administers grant support to the Department of Education's (DOE) Artists-in-the-Schools Program and to the Hawaii Arts Alliance. Program efforts have established an annual arts education conference that attracts approximately 200 educators and arts professionals each year, and agency sponsorship of the School Arts Excellence Awards, which recognizes exemplary arts education programs in the state. The Arts Education and Art in Public Places Program also work with the DOE, to exhibit children's art at the Hawai'i Convention Center. Other initiatives include developing seminars, workshops, and various training opportunities for educators and administrators in the area of arts education. The program is supported in part with Federal funds dedicated to arts education from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Arts Education Program collaborates with the APP Program to conduct the Art in Public Places/Artists in Residence Program wherein a commissioned work of art is created for a public school. The process brings together students, teachers, school administrators, members of the community, the artist, the SFCA staff and a specialist from the DOE to select the subject matter and conceptualize the art process. Funding is made available through the SFCA Works of Art Special Fund.

The SFCA's Folk Arts Program continues its substantial work in perpetuating and documenting Hawaii's traditional arts. The program administers its highly commended apprenticeship awards program through which a master artist and a select apprentice participate in a year of intense study. Disciplines such as lauhala weaving, Hawaiian chant, slack key guitar, Hawaiian saddlemaking, hula, Okinawan music and dance, Hawaiian canoe building, and Cantonese opera have been conducted in past years.

In FY 06, the agency convened an eloquent Awards Ceremony at Washington Place to recognize John Hara with the Governor's Award for Distinguished Achievement in Culture, Arts and

Humanities, Juliet Kono and Y York with the Hawaii Award for Literature, and four Individual Artist Fellowships in the Performing Arts. This was an effort in redesigning and consolidating the agency's awards programs and was a signature effort for the agency.

In FY 06, the agency celebrated its 40th anniversary with an International Cultural Summit at the Hawaii Convention Center. Consulate officials, national arts leaders, educators, public officials, cultural practitioners, arts administrators and students gathered for three days of intense dialog, workshops, and presentations addressing issues in culture and the arts.

Historic Preservation

The Department of Land and Natural Resource's Historic Preservation Division is a Level II program under the Cultural Activities section of the Cultural and Recreation section of the State Programs.

The program seeks to preserve and sustain reminders of earlier times, which strive to link the past to the present. Historic Preservation Division directs ongoing historical, architectural, and archaeological research and development. Historic preservation research and development is done through surveys, excavations, and scientific recordings. The program identifies and documents historic properties on Federal, State, County and private properties. The Historic Preservation Division regulates all archeological activities in the State, through issuance of permits, and through enforcement of the law concerning archaeological activities. The Division supports the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board, and prepares and processes the documentation for listing on the Hawaii and National Register of Historic Places. The Historic Preservation Division protects and manages burial sites in the State, and supports the individual island Burial Councils.

Architecture Program

This program is involved in preservation of historic building structures through comments made about specific development projects. This program also supports the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board, and also prepares nominations for buildings, roads and other historic properties to be placed on the Hawaii and National Historic Register. This program interfaces with many preservation groups such as ACHP, NPS, National Trust, non-profit preservation groups.

Archaeology Program

This program regulates archaeology activities in the state, through the issuance of permits for archaeological work, and the reviews of all survey work concerning individual projects. The archaeology program assists in the preparation of nominations to the Hawaii and National Historic Register for archaeological and cultural sites.

Burials Program

This program supports the Island Burial Councils by providing administrative support and assists in reburials. The reburials take place using proper cultural protocols. Important relationships are with Hawaiian cultural groups, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The objective of the Level II program, Recreational Activities, is to enrich the lives of people of all ages by providing opportunities and facilities for recreational activities, such as acquisition and exercise of artistic skills and crafts, participation in organized and informal sports, and attendance at spectator events.

A total of four individual, lowest-level programs are encompassed under this sub-program. State agencies involved are: the Department of Accounting and General Services (Spectator Events and Shows - Aloha Stadium) and Department of Land and Natural Resources (Forest and Outdoor Recreation; Parks Administration and Operations; and Ocean-Based Recreation).

In addition to the State, the City and County of Honolulu and Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai conduct a substantial amount of recreational activity. County parks and recreation activities generally focus on providing community programs for the elderly, youth and the handicapped, and facilities for organized sports, such as golf, tennis, and baseball.

The federal government's major recreational activities include preserving and maintaining national parks and shorelines, and creating multiple-use flood control and harbor projects.

Major services of this program include: construction and maintenance of shelters, cabins, roads, areas, and facilities in inland and coastal areas to permit their use for ocean fishing, camping, picnicking, or cycling; development and operation of areas adjacent to the ocean for beach park, small boat harbors, boat launching facilities and shoreline fishing

areas; maintenance, operation and management of the Aloha Stadium and related facilities; and interpretive programs in State Parks.

Significant activities include: (1) evaluate, maintain or construct recreational trails and access roads; (2) maintain ancillary recreational facilities (campgrounds, hunter check-in stations, shelters, arboreta, picnic areas); (3) install, monitor and maintain informational and warning signage; (4) inventory and conduct surveys of game birds and mammals; (5) evaluate hunter harvest and participation for setting seasons and establishing rules; (6) enhance game habitat areas (fencing, planting, predator control management facilities); (7) manage, regulate and monitor commercial trail and access road tour activity; (8) research title to ancient and historic trails; and determine feasibility of restoring for managed public use; (9) develop new public hunting areas for management; and (10) administer and manage citizen advisory and volunteer groups.

Cost data is shown in Table II-2. Most of the capital investment expenditures will be for outdoor recreational facilities such as small boat harbors, heritage and recreation parks, and the Aloha Stadium. These expenditures reflect the State's continuing concern for providing recreational opportunities for Hawaii's residents and visitors, and the preservation of open spaces. It is noted that no capital investment costs are reflected for the planning period because projects are under review.

TABLE II-2
INVESTMENT AND OPERATING COSTS
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

	F i s c a l Y e a r s							
	Actual 2005-06	Est. 2006-07	Rec. 2007-08	Rec. 2008-09	2009-10	P r o j e c t e d		
						2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
<u>Costs of the Recommended Program^{A/}</u>								
Capital Investment	32.37	49.04	59.17	66.47	...	...	...	...
Operating	26.45	35.64	40.67	39.99	39.95	39.95	39.95	39.95
Total	58.82	84.68	99.84	106.46	39.95	39.95	39.95	39.95

^{A/} Expenditures in millions of dollars from all funds.

Forest and Outdoor Recreation

The Forest and Outdoor Recreation Level III Program (LNR 804) objectives are to: (1) provide managed opportunities and facilities for the public to engage in multiple-use outdoor recreation activities (hiking, biking, equestrian riding, off-highway vehicle use, hunting, and camping) while also providing access for resource management; (2) maintain, and enhance a public hunting program to provide a source of food and outdoor recreation for the public and as a means to control introduced game animals in watershed areas; and (3) inventory, document ownership and restore specific historic trails and non-vehicular old government roads for public use where it is feasible and culturally appropriate.

This Program typically cooperates with the following State Departments on technical matters and for field implementation of program objectives: Agriculture; Business, Economic Development and Tourism; Education; Health; and Transportation. It also coordinates with federal agencies including: Department of Defense, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Transportation. Cooperation with County agencies and personnel includes coordination with the county water departments, county permitting and planning agencies and county park departments.

Significant activities include: (1) Evaluate, maintain or construct recreational trails and access roads; (2) Maintain ancillary recreational facilities (campgrounds, hunter check-in stations, shelters, arboreta, picnic areas); (3) Install, monitor and maintain informational and warning signage; (4) Inventory and conduct surveys of game birds and mammals; (5) Evaluate hunter harvest and participation for setting seasons and establishing rules; (6) Enhance game habitat areas fencing, planting, predator control management facilities; (7) Manage, regulate and monitor commercial trail and access road tour activity; (8) Research title to ancient and historic trails, and determine feasibility of restoring for managed public use; (9) Develop new public hunting areas for management; and (10) Administer and manage citizen advisory and volunteer groups.

Important relationships include: (1) cooperation with private landowner to manage recreation and hunting access; (2) implementation of federal programs for wildlife restoration program and the national recreational trails program; (3) coordination with federal, state, and county agencies and private organizations for acquisition of land or conservation easements for hunting and hiking; (4) cooperation with hunting, hiking and off-road vehicle clubs; and (5) cooperation with federal and county agencies for hiking and off-road vehicle programs.

Parks Administration and Operations

The Parks Administration and Operation Level III program enhances the park program for the public by providing statewide administrative and interpretive services, formulating overall policies and plans, and determining future needs for state parks and Land and Water Conservation Fund supported activities. Also, it provides safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for the public by developing and operating state parks.

The State Parks program presents Hawaii's finest natural and cultural resources, many of national and international significance. The program involves the development, operation and maintenance of parks in the Hawaii State Parks system that includes 69 state parks and other areas of responsibility on five major islands. The State Parks system encompasses over 31,000 acres ranging from landscaped grounds with developed facilities to wildland areas with trails and primitive facilities. An estimated 9.2 million visitors visit these parks each year with a significant amount being tourists seeking a unique experience.

The "Natural Resources Assessment" study completed in 2004 by Hawaii Tourism Authority and survey of Hawaii State Parks help provide direction for park improvements. The program will continue its emphasis on improving the quality of visitor experiences by updating and improving restroom and other facilities, meeting requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, compliance with federal and State laws relating to water and waste treatment systems, and expanding the interpretive program. CIP project planning is ongoing to continue much needed reconstruction and improvements of parks facilities and infrastructure.

State Parks will continue to focus on securing revenues from various sources including entry fees at selected parks, establishing more concessions and vending machines, assessing current and other fee structures/rates, and percentage of the "Transient Accommodation Tax."

The computerized State Parks Reservation and Visitor Information System (SPRVIS) has been expanded to include a permit center at Waianapanapa, Hana, Maui and will be enhanced to further improve public access to permits for camping, lodging, facilities usage, and special uses.

Ocean-Based Recreation

The Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) is tasked with enriching the lives of people of all ages by providing opportunities and facilities for developing skills and participating in non-organized ocean-based outdoor activities

such as boating, saltwater fishing, surfing, ocean swimming, etc.

DOBOR is responsible for overseeing and managing the State's ocean based recreation. This includes the operation, management and maintenance of 20 small boat harbors and 56 ramps statewide. The division establishes rules for the safe use of harbors and ramps as well as for the ocean waters of the state and has the responsibility for establishing and maintaining ocean recreation management areas (ORMA) that ensure the safety of area users and mitigate user conflicts in the ocean waters of the state. Finally, it administers and maintains the State's vessel registration system.

DOBOR is tasked with maintaining the recreational harbor and ramp facilities statewide and is funded solely from the Boating Special Fund. The Boating Special Fund is funded primarily from mooring and other harbor use fees, including 3% of gross revenues of commercial vessels using boating facilities and commercial thrill craft and parasail operations. Other revenue sources to the fund include the State marine fuel tax, vessel registration fees, rental income from leases and revocable permits of boating facility's properties, and from federal grants.

DOBOR recognizes that substantial repairs and maintenance is needed and had developed a multi-year plan to address these needs. The lack of revenues to service the required debt service has always hindered the division's efforts to improve its facilities. In 2006, the division received permission from the Board of Land and Natural Resources to increase its fees an average of 32% the first year and 8% every year for the next two years. The fee increase for the future years is contingent upon the division receiving \$10 million in capital improvement projects each year. Funds from the fee increase will support the debt service for anticipated capital improvement projects and will also address the increased repairs and maintenance costs at boating facilities and cover increased operating costs. The division has requested \$10 million in capital improvement projects for each year of the new biennium. DOBOR continues to upgrade Hawaii's existing small boat harbor and ramp facilities. The facilities have out lived their useful lives and are subjected daily to the harsh marine environment and annual winter storms. This has resulted in the closure of docks and ramps. Due to the limited availability of funds, the division will address these issues through special maintenance projects. The division is also exploring ways to develop lands adjoining its small boat harbors in order to broaden its income base.

DOBOR has established boating advisory committees throughout the state and has the goal of having an advisory committee for each harbor, ramp and ORMA statewide. The committees will

assist the State in determining priorities for project scheduling and funding, as well as revising and updating master plans for various boating facilities and providing recommendations for improvements in providing recommendations for improvements in providing other services.

III. PROGRAM CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

The FY 2007-09 budget consolidates the Parks Administration and Operation (LNR 806) and the Park Interpretation (LNR 807) programs. The consolidated program will include planning, construction, and management of all existing parks; resource protection; and development of interpretive programs to heighten visitor awareness and understanding of the resources and promote its protection.

The Recreational Fisheries program (LNR 805) is also being consolidated with the Fisheries and Resources Enhancement (LNR 153), located with other Economic Development section programs.

In addition, the SFCA (AGS 881) received general funds from DOE to administer the Artist-in-Schools program. This program places artists in the classroom, increases access to the arts for students, and contributes positively to the life of Hawaii's communities and the creative growth of our youth. The Artists-in-the Schools program was established more than 30 years ago and has been a model for other State education systems.

IV. EMERGING CONDITIONS, TRENDS, AND ISSUES

State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

The agency is beginning a substantial new direction with the addition of the Hawai'i State Art Museum and is thus expecting exciting developments in cultural tourism for the Capital District, as well as partnerships with the arts and business communities. The SFCA's new role in operating an important facility for the arts is challenging and rewarding, both for the agency and the State. New revenue streams and numerous voluntary support systems are integral to future growth.

The agency is guided by its current strategic plan through FY 08 and is looking forward to charting its growth beyond that period with a new strategic plan to be shaped with statewide community participation during the next fiscal year.

Historic Preservation

The increase in development has had consequences for all of our programs. The programs have experienced increased workloads. The consequences of this workload have been to reduce overall review time for each project, which may lead to problems down the road.

The increase in public interest to engage in the recreational use of off-highway vehicles is a considerable external trend affecting both public and private landowners and is directing trail and motorized area development and the obligation and application of federal Recreational Trails Program funds. Development of environmentally and socially acceptable riding areas for off-highway vehicles (motorcycles and all terrain vehicles) is a priority to deal with this increasingly popular activity and prevent damage by unauthorized riding in other environmentally sensitive areas that get used if alternative developed sites are not provided.

Forest and Outdoor Recreation

Land development, particularly in South Kona on Hawaii, is driving State Trail and Access Program (Na Ala Hele) activity in abstracting title and negotiations with land developers for the protection and public use of ancient and historic trails. Responding to legal issues where historic trails are adverse to private property owners and community access and cultural concerns, while also identifying the quality and value of historic features from both a cultural and recreational basis is challenging.

Increasing urbanization and development of previously rural areas is occurring at an accelerated pace with the housing boom. This can have a negative effect by increasing the number of wildlife nuisance problems in residential areas, leading to conflicts between homeowners and game animals. Directing public and private hunters to problem areas can relieve some of the conflicts but requires cooperation of the entire community to allow greater hunting activity and access. There is also a need to use public hunting to help control game mammal numbers in watershed and important native ecosystems.

The continued public recreational interest in access (for both hiking and hunting activities) to trails on or across both public and private lands and the associated liability and public safety concerns is creating the continued need for expanding the ability to improve upon public access and better manage and maintain authorized trails and access routes. The continued interest in global ecotourism activities maintains the need to monitor, regulate and collect fees from authorized

commercial trail tour operators. Recent national surveys indicate an increased support and acceptance of hunting nationally (particularly in rural areas) even though the percentage of hunters in the general population is still declining.

Parks Administration and Operations

The increasing State population and tourism have placed greater demands on recreational facilities, natural resources, and historic sites. Internet access and marketing Hawaii as a popular visitor destination point have stimulated visitor interests and awareness of Hawaii's natural resources, and visitors are now seeking wilderness experiences and visiting areas formerly used by residents, hunters, and hikers. Protective measures and interpretive and other education programs need to be expanded to provide greater visitor understanding and appreciation of the parks and Hawaii's natural resources.

Ocean-Based Recreation

DOBOR has the responsibility of facilitating ocean recreation activities in the state's ocean waters. This includes activities such as surf schools, tow-in surfing, surf contests, ocean tourism, and recreational thrill craft recreation areas. These, and other ocean recreation activities, are part of a growing trend of ecotourism that the division will address through the use of ORMAS. This is a part of a growing trend of ocean activities that are not associated with the recreational boat harbors. The funding of these programs, however, will be funded from the harbor and user fees.

The division is also working on assuming the responsibility for cruise ship security. The amount of cruise ship activity has increased over the biennium and the division will work with the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) to assume their duties.

V. SELECTED PROBLEMS FOR POSSIBLE STUDY

Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation Division could consider the increased use of community groups to take care of historic and cultural sites to insure the preservation of these treasures. The difficulties the division will face is insuring proper conservation treatment by the caretaking group, the necessary monitoring of activities on the historic site, and insuring adequate access to the general public.

Forest and Outdoor Recreation

Reliance upon federal funds has increased over time and federal funds now provide a major portion of the operating funds for program activities such as statewide trail and access and hunting program materials, supplies, and equipment. With the shift to a reliance on federal funds for basic program field operations, the department has lost much of its flexibility to respond to state initiatives and emergencies and any activity not tied to federal grants. New funding sources are needed for natural resource management to fund activities that do not qualify for federal grants and to meet the match requirement for high priority activities such as maintenance of trails and accesses for watershed management, outdoor recreation, and emergency response.

Parks Administration and Operations

Through a grant from the Hawaii Tourism Authority, a new "Ranger" program was established and implemented at Haena State Park on Kauai and at Kekaha Kai State Park in Kona. Their presence at these parks have enhanced visitors' experiences, promoted park safety, and educated visitors about Hawaii's unique resources. Expanding the program with ranger positions in high visitation parks will provide interpretive programs and visitor services in the parks, including safety information, interpreting the significant natural and cultural resources of the various parks, addressing general visitor needs and questions, monitoring the natural and cultural resources in the parks, working with community groups, and developing volunteer projects.